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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Offers Funding to Animal Feeding Operations**

*Lakewood, CO* –If you have an animal feeding operation or a concentrated animal feeding operation (AFO/CAFO) but don't have a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP), you may want to contact the USDA Service Center for your county. NRCS is offering financial assistance to AFO/CAFO owners and operators to assist in the development of a CNMP. **Applications received by close of business on May 27, 2005, will be considered for fiscal year 2005 funding** through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

A CNMP is a conservation plan unique to animal feeding operations. It documents the owner/operator's plan to manage manure and organic by-products by combining conservation practices and management activities into an over-arching conservation system that achieves the goals of the producer and protects water quality.

A CNMP is voluntary for both AFOs and CAFOs. The plans, however, can help operators meet the requirements of a Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Discharge Permit issued under Regulation 61.17. Therefore, the plans are highly recommended for CAFOs.

NRCS works with livestock producers and dairy farmers to develop CNMPs to meet all applicable local, state and Federal requirements, as well as to address soil erosion from land application areas that may affect water resources.

In developing a CNMP, planners propose resource conservation alternatives according to applicable NRCS technical standards. The owner/operator then selects from these alternatives to create a CNMP that best meets their management objectives. The completed plan will fit within the total resource management objectives of the entire farming/animal feeding operation.

For additional information regarding CNMPs and the EQIP program, please contact your local NRCS field office located in the USDA Service Center for your county.

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